

## Message Text

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ORIGIN SCS-03

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DRAFTED BY: SCA:SCS:EMARNOLD

APPROVED BY: SCA:SCS:AFFOWLER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

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FOLLOWING REPEAT DHARHAN 0009 ACTION SECSTATE INFO

BEIRUT ABU DHABI KUWAIT JIDDA DIA DTD 05 JAN

QTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DHARHAN 0009

DEPARTMENT: PASS COPY TO CHIEF, INVESTIGATION DIVISION, NATIONAL  
TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, SA

SUBJECT: CRASH OF MEA AIRLINER IN SAUDI ARABIA

REF: JIDDA 0012

1. NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD INVESTIGATORS KAPUSTIN  
AND VICTORIAN ARRIVED DHARHAN JANUARY 3. DURING STOPOVER IN  
JIDDA, TWO MEN WERE ASKED TO STAY EXTRA DAY TO MEET WITH SHEIKH  
ABDULLAH MAHDI, SAG DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION. MEETING ENTIRELY  
CORDIAL AND CHARACTERISTIC OF WARM AND FRIENDLY TREATMENT THEY  
HAVE RECEIVED THUS FAR IN KINGDOM. KAPUSTIN NOTES, HOWEVER,  
THAT HE AND VICTORIAN "TREADING LIGHTLY".

2. KAPUSTIN SPENT ALL OF JANUARY 4 AT CRASH SITE. HE

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DESCRIBES LOCATION OF CRASH TO BE NEAR TAPLINE ROAD AND ON 320

DEGREE HEADING FEW MILES FROM QAISUMA. SECURITY AT SITE DESCRIBED AS VERY TIGHT. LEBANESE AND MEA OFFICIALS HAVE ARRIVED AND JOINED INVESTIGATION PARTY. CONGENOFF MET BOEING REP PIPER, WHO ARRIVED FROM LONDON VERY LATE EVENING JANUARY 4. LATER, PIPER BRIEFED BY KAPUSTIN AT LATTER'S HOTEL.

3. UNDERSTAND WRECKAGE SCATTERED OVER 3 TO 6 MILE AREA. KAPUSTIN STATES THAT NATURE OF AIRCRAFT BREAKUP AND TERRAIN SITUATION SUGGESTS IT WILL REQUIRE LENGTHY PERIOD OF TIME TO DETERMINE REASON FOR BREAKUP. HE ADDED "PRESUMABLY AT FL 370". HE WAS SHOWN CONTENTS OF REFTEL AND HAD NOTHING MORE TO ADD. KAPUSTIN, VICTORIAN, AND PIPER LEFT MORNING JANUARY 5 FOR CRASH SITE AND WILL BASE THEIR INVESTIGATION OPERATIONS FOR A LEAST NEST TWO DAYS OUT OF ARABIAN AMERICAN OIL COMPANY TAPLINE CAMP AT QAISUMA. CONGEN HAS MADE ITS COMMUNICATION FACILITIES AVAILABLE KAPUSTIN TO USE AS REQUIRED.

4. KAPUSTIN ALSO REPORTS MEA HAS INSTITUTED BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION ON ALL PASSENGERS ABOARD ILL-FATED FLIGHT. SAG HAS RELEASED BODIES OF CREW AND FEW OF PASSENGERS FOR AIR LIFTING OUT OF DHARHAN. KAPUSTIN, WHO EXAMINED MOST OF PASSPORTS OF PASSENGERS ON AIRCRAFT, SATISFIED NO AMERICANS WERE ON BOARD.

BUSHNELL UNQTE KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AIRCRAFT ACCIDENTS, INVESTIGATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 05 JAN 1976  
**Decapton Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decapton Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** SCA:SCS:EMARNOLD  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CRASH OF MEA AIRLINER IN SAUDI ARABIA  
**TAGS:** EAIR, SA, MIDDLE EAST AIRLINES  
**To:** PARIS  
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